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RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ON IMPROVING ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN HUNGARY

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Recently, the Hungarian Council of Ministers issued a resolution on the development of animal husbandry and forage production in 1951 and 1952. The resolution is expected to have far-reaching effects, not only on agriculture but also on the entire national economy.

The capitalistic form of agriculture was detrimental to animal husbandry. It favored the large estate owners and kulaks, and ignored the interests of the peasants. As a result, peasants rarely owned registered breeding animals. The unfavorable effects of this system are clear when it is remembered that only "registered" animals were purchased by the army, for export, for breeding, etc.

Hungary lost half of its livestock during the war, but has made a remarkable recovery in recent years. By the beginning of 1948, the country's livestock had regained the 1938 level and cattle and hogs even exceeded it. Nevertheless, the country is still lagging behind the qualitative and quantitative results of the USSR.

Further rehabilitation of Hungary's animal husbandry must be speeded up, not only because of the increased demands of consumption but also to satisfy the growing requirements of industry, as well as for export purposes. The growth in the fodder-producing area, together with the improvements in yields, has made it possible to increase the country's livestock. In turn, the larger amount of manure obtained from the increased number of livestock will be favorable for agriculture. However, real development in animal husbandry may be expected from socialized agriculture only. Collectivization is, therefore, a prerequisite for further growth in Hungary's animal husbandry.

The resolution of the Council of Ministers sets up four main tasks for animal husbandry: (1) increase in livestock, with special regard to breeding animals, (2) increased reproduction, (3) increased productivity, and (4) increased marketing of animal products.

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	<u>Planned Increase in Livestock (in 1,000)</u>		
	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cattle, total	170	200	370
Cows	113	118	231
Hogs, total	400	600	1,000
Sows	46	70	116
Sheep, total	230	270	500
Ewes	120	150	270
Poultry	<u>[Not given]</u>		5,300

While the present ratio is 100 animals per 330 cadastral yokes of arable land, the ratio will be 100 animals per 280 cadastral yokes of arable land by the end of 1952. As compared to this national average, the present ratio on state farms is 100 animals per 390 cadastral yokes of arable land, and the ratio will be changed to 100 animals per 240 cadastral yokes of arable land by the end of 1952. On the cooperative farms, the ratio will reach 100 animals per 270 cadastral yokes of arable land during the same period.

Under the resolution, the following birth rates are set up as a goal for the next 2 years:

	<u>No of Calves (per 100 cows)</u>	
	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Cattle		
On state farms	72	75
On cooperative farms	70	72
National average	69	70
	<u>No of Pigs (per sow)</u>	
	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Hogs		
On State Farms		
Lard animals	6	8
Crossbreeds	7	10
Meat animals	11	11
On Cooperative Farms		
Lard animals	6	8
Crossbreeds	7	10
Meat animals	8	9
National Averages		
Lard animals	6	7
Crossbreeds	7	8
Meat animals	8	9
	<u>No of Lambs (per 100 ewes)</u>	
	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Sheep		
On state farms	120	125
On cooperative farms	100	110
National average	90	95

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Horses

Rate of reproduction is to reach 15 percent per year by the end of 1952.

The following table shows the planned increase in certain livestock products.

	<u>Planned Productivity</u>	
	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Average Milk Yield per Cow (in lit)		
On state farms	3,000	3,300
On cooperative farms	3,200	2,500
National average to be increased by	200	200
Wool Yield per Sheep (in kg)		
On state farms	5	5.5
On cooperative farms	4.6	4.9
National average	4.2	4.5
Egg Yield per Hen		
On state farms	120	150
On cooperative farms	110	130
National average to be increased by	10	10
Gain in Weight of Hogs (per 100 kg of fodder)		
On state farms	20	21
On cooperative farms	17.5	19
National average	17	18.5

The foregoing figures indicate that the plan outlined in the resolution calls for substantial increases over current average yields.

Up to the present, animal husbandry has been governed by a mistaken policy, according to which it is not necessary to utilize the productive potentialities of breeding animals fully. There is, for example, a theory which holds that hogs should litter only once a year, whereas it is possible to attain two or even three litters per year.

The resolution also requires that a larger amount of commodities produced by socialized agriculture should be made available for the general public. At present, a substantial quantity of the milk, eggs, meat, and fat produced by the cooperatives does not come on the market, but is consumed by the cooperative members. To increase the marketable part of cooperative products, subsistence farming by cooperative members is to be increased, which will enable the cooperatives to market all their products.

The resolution outlines the ways and means by which its various provisions can be carried out, namely, by: (1) developing the forage supply, (2) mechanizing livestock raising, (3) improving operations in animal husbandry, (4) using preventive medicines, (5) applying scientific methods, (6) training personnel, (7) awakening workers' interest in increased production, and (8) awarding decorations, etc.

To assure an adequate fodder supply, the resolution provides that the average corn yield must be increased by 4 quintals per cadastral yoke, rough fodder production by 30 percent, and the yield of meadows and grazing land by 2.5 and 2.8 quintals, respectively, per cadastral yoke.

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Often animals are not fed according to their productive capacity and, therefore, their yield is usually inadequate. The resolution provides that animals should be fed green, moist fodder throughout the year. It is very important to store plants and by-products which have not been used as fodder in the past, such as cornstalks, carrot leaves, etc. This provision of the resolution is in line with the general drive for economy.

The productivity of animals is influenced considerably by the manner in which they are housed and cared for. Large barns are needed, instead of the existing small and scattered barns. Each state farm and cooperative farm is to organize construction brigades, which must utilize local materials, such as loam, cane, etc., to build the necessary barns. Local building will relieve the construction industry, make use of waste materials, and provide work for the seasonally unemployed.

Mechanization in livestock raising will result in economy in manpower and in improved productivity of the livestock. When ground fodder is fed, for example, the animal produces 15 - 20 percent more than when the same amount of seed is fed.

Artificial insemination plays an important part in the quantitative as well as qualitative improvement of the livestock. Normally a bull can sire 40-50 calves per year at best, but by artificial insemination breeding can be increased 1,000 percent.

Although socialized agriculture accounts for a substantial amount of commodities, the largest part of agricultural products is still produced by independent peasants. A difficult problem is presented by the need of increasing production by independent peasants without interfering with the development of cooperatives. This difficulty will be solved by the introduction of the system of contracts, which will form a transition from individual to socialized agricultural production.

It is estimated that Hungary is losing 500 million forints a year through the loss of animals due to diseases. In view of these heavy losses, the resolution contains special recommendations for the use of preventive medicine.

The labor force engaged in animal husbandry is insufficient. The resolution, therefore, states that 110,000 workers must be trained by the end of 1952, including 1,800 in special high schools and 800 specialists with university training.

Since the realization of the animal-husbandry plan serves the interests of the people, special incentives are provided in the resolution. Cooperative members will receive supplementary work-unit credits and state farm workers will receive special premiums. In addition, the Order of Work and the Order of Work Medal will be awarded for outstanding achievements.

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